establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

(c) Representations have been received from time to time from various bar Associations, other organizations, Members of Parliament and other individuals for establishment of Benches of High Courts away from their principal seats in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Orissa.

The Government has approved the proposal for the setting up of a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. The confirmation as to whether all the infrastructural facilities for establishment and smooth functioning of the proposed Jalpaiguri Bench have been provided by the Government of West Bengal is awaited from the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

(d) to (f) In 1991, the State Government of orissa intimated that they has decided in principle, to set up Circuit Benches of the Orissa High Court at Berhampur and Sambalpur or Bolangir but the High Court of Orissa had not considered it expedient to do so. The State Government were advised to consider, if it so wished, to re-emphasize upon the High Court the desirability of establishing its Circuit Benches and to persuade the High Court to do so under Clause 10 of the Orissa High Court Order, 1948. However, no further reference has been received thereafter in this regard from the State Government or the High Court.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government only when a complete proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

Status of draft delimitation report

1378. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the draft delimitation report submitted by the Delimitation Commission recently;

(b) whether Government has finalized the diverse proposals in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons for delaying the announcements; and

(d) the steps proposed to expedite the implementation of the delimitation proposals recommended by the Delimitation Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Delimitation Commission has so far issued Orders in respect of 25 States/Union Territories, namely, Kerala, Tripura, Mizoram, Goa, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Sikkim, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Jharkhand. Further the High Court of Guwahati has passed its two different interim orders to suspend the delimitation work in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The High Court of Guwahati in another interim order directed the delimitation Commission not to publish the final order in respect of Nagaland. In respect of the State of Manipur the work of delimitation has been resumed after the stay given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the order dated 19-01-2007 of the Guwahati High Court.

(b) to (d) So far the Delimitation Commission has completed its exercise in respect of 25 States. These Orders have, however, not been given effect to, pending issue of Final Orders in respect of all the States/Union Territories. The new delimitation will take effect from the date to be specified by the President of India under the second proviso to article 82 and second proviso of clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution.

Registration of marriages

1379. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court set a fresh three-month deadline in October, 2007, for the States and Union Territories, to frame necessary rules to make registration of marriages compulsory, irrespective of religion, and took exception to some States making registration of marriages compulsory only for Hindus;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court;

(c) how many States have introduced the legislation so far; and

(d) whether, in view of the Supreme Court's judgment, Government is considering to have a Central Law for compulsory registration of marriages?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 25th October, 2007 has directed that the States and Union Territories who have not acted in line with the directions given on 14.02.2006 in the case of Smt. Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar AIR 2006 S.C. 1158 shall forthwith do it and in no case later than three months from 25.10.2007.

(b) The Government has sought the comments of the State Governments/Union Territories on the compliance of directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid case.

(c) The information is being collected from all States/Union Territories.

(d) The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the Judgment in the said case. No decision has been taken so far to enact a Central Law in this behalf.

Registration of marriages in rural areas

1380. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apex court has made it mandatory to register the marriages;

(b) if so, whether any mechanism is available in the country for registration of marriages solemnized in the rural areas;

(c) if not, whether it would be proper accord powers to postmasters who subsequently would forward the data to district courts for collecting and distributing registration certificates within a time bound period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?